

STATE AGREEMENT RATES AND PLANNING AND BUILDING LICENCE STUDY

641. Hon KEN BASTON to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Industry and Enterprise:

I refer to the promised state agreement rates and planning and building licence study, approved by cabinet in May 2004 and commenced by the Department of Industry and Resources in September 2004, which has been subject to some delays in completion.

- (1) Will the minister confirm that the study commenced in September 2004?
- (2) What was the original completion date for the study?
- (3) Has the steering committee or the minister received the summary report of the study; and, if not, why not and when is it anticipated that the summary report will be received?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Ken Baston for providing some notice of the question.

- (1) Cabinet approved the commencement of the study on 13 May 2004.
- (2) The original estimated completion date was 30 June 2005. This estimate was based on the limited information available at the time on the scale of the valuation exercise.
- (3) No. A draft of the section of the consultant's report addressing the terms of reference dealing with local government building licences and planning approvals for projects under state agreements has been prepared by the consultant and reviewed by the steering committee. The issues raised in the draft are still being considered. Progress towards completing the sections of the study dealing with the effects on local government revenue of the rates clause in state agreements has been delayed for a number of reasons. The study was extensively delayed by the unavailability of suitably qualified valuers to undertake the valuations of properties held under the state agreements. Other delays have been experienced due to the unavailability of information from the participating companies. It is anticipated that the study will be completed this year.